



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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#### COMPLETE STATISTICAL SURVEY OF FISHERIES PLANNED

The first complete statistical survey of the United States fishery industry since 1931 will soon get under way, Secretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman announced today.

"The availability of statistics during World War II—provided by the Department's constant activity in collecting, compiling, analyzing and issuing production and distribution data on American fisheries—helped Federal agencies to accomplish the difficult task of supplying food, regulating prices, and administering an important phase of the war effort," explained Secretary Chapman.

"During peace, as well as in periods of national emergency, statistics on American fisheries enable the industry to determine trends and to assist its members in arranging their activities to take advantage of changing business conditions," the Secretary added.

Complete surveys of the United States fisheries were made only in 1908 and 1931. In recent years, canvasses of the fisheries of most sections of the country have been made annually, however no data on the fisheries of the Mississippi River area have been assembled since 1931, and since 1940 only partial surveys have been made of the fisheries of the Great Lakes, South Atlantic, and Gulf States.

The Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has received an increase in its appropriation for statistical activities during the current fiscal year. Preparatory to the general canvass, the Service's Branch of Commercial Fisheries plans to establish field offices at Morehead City, North Carolina; Miami, Florida; and at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Another office will be set up at a point in the upper Mississippi River region.

In the course of statistical surveys, field agents of the Branch of Commercial Fisheries visit the fishing localities and offices of State fishery agencies in the various regions to assemble statistics on the volume and value of the catch of fish and shellfish, employment in the fisheries, quantity of fishing gear, number and classifications of fishing and transporting craft, and the volume and value of manufactured fishery products and byproducts.

Although a complete canvass of the fisheries has not been authorized since 1931, the Branch of Commercial Fisheries has conducted annual surveys of the Pacific Coast, New England, and the Middle Atlantic and Chesapeake Bay States in most years. In addition, market news offices—which provide daily fishery market information—have been established at important production and distribution centers.

Monthly summaries of fishery landings, published by the Fish and Wildlife Service, include Maine Landings, Massachusetts Landings, and Texas Landings. Other summaries, which are expected to be issued shortly, will cover Alabama and Florida landings.

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